

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in the Virginia coastal waters.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

December 30, 2009 to January 27, 2010

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to implement Framework 21 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Framework 21 was developed primarily to set specifications for the 2010 fishing year and to comply with the most recent Biological Opinion on the Atlantic sea scallop fishery. The Biological Opinion, prepared in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, requires a reduction of allowable scallop fishing effort in the Mid-Atlantic during the time of year when sea turtle distribution overlaps with scallop fishing activity. Framework 21 was adopted by the New England Fishery Management Council and includes the following measures: scallop days at sea (DAS) allocations and sea scallop access area trip allocations for limited access vessels; compliance with the requirements of the March 14, 2008 (amended February 5, 2009) Biological Opinion; minor adjustments to the limited access general category individual fishing quota program; and minor adjustments to the industry-funded observer program. NMFS finds Framework 21 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program (also called the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program).

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NAME; John E. Fisher
DEQ Central Office
Office of Environmental Impact Review
629 East Main Street, Room 633
Richmond, Virginia, 23219;

Phone: (804) 698-4339
Fax: (804) 698-4319
E-mail: john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov